watershed approach aiming at augmentation of production and productivity, meeting basic needs of forest produce, minimizing ecological degradation and sustainable management of land, water and bio-diversity and linking up of food for work programme.

(c) The major elements as referred to above have been internalized in the afforestation programme of the Ministry of Environment and Forests for the Tenth Plan.

Food for lions

1814. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether sterilization of lions has been suggested to contain their population in view of resource crunch;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to provide financial assistance out of the funds allocated for the The Lion Project to provide food for lions; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The zoos have been asked to adopt population control measures for hybrid lions as these are of mixed origin and, therefore, have no conservation value. However, breeding of Asiatic Lions of pure origin is encouraged.

(c) and (d) No Sir. Government of India does not provide funds for feed of animals.

Death of leopards in Uttaranchal

1815. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that six leopards died in various parts of Uttaranchal in the last one and a half years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;